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FM AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5471
INFO GULF WAR COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 0148
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 05528

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: [PREL](#) [USUN](#) [IZ](#) [IR](#)
SUBJECT: RAFSANJANI STICKS TO NAMING AGGRESSOR BEFORE
- CEASEFIRE

REF: BAGHDAD 5515

11. (C) DURING RECENT MEETING, MFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIRECTOR AL-QAYSI PROVIDED DCM WITH MFA ARABIC TRANSLATION OF OCTOBER 25 TEHRAN RADIO INTERVIEW WITH RAFSANJANI IN WHICH RAFSANJANI SAID THAT NAMING THE AGGRESSOR MUST PRECEDE A CEASEFIRE AND THAO ONLY NAMING THE AGGRESSOR OR DEFEATING THE AGGRESSOR WILL END THE WAR. AL-QAYSI ASKED RHETORICALLY WHY IRAQ SHOULD BE ASKED TO ABANDON THE SEQUENTIAL ORDER OF 598 WHEN IRAN, AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS, CONTINUES TO INSIST THAT "THE AGGRESSOR BE NAMED" BEFORE THERE IS EVEN A CEASEFIRE, MUCH LESS WITHDRAWAL. THAT SAID, HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE AVOIDED GIVING ANY HINT OF IRAQ'S POSITION ON SIMULTANEOUS VS SEQUENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION PENDING DELIVERY OF IRAQ'S RESPONSE TO THE SYG OCTOBER 30 (REFTEL).

12. (U) FOR THE RECORD, INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF MFA TRANSLATION OF THE INTERVIEW FOLLOWS. BEGIN TEXT:

INTERVIEW WITH RAFSANJANI
TEHRAN RADIO
2330, OCTOBER 25, 1987

1Q. MY QUESTION IS CONNECTED WITH THE GULF WAR. THE UNSG HAS SUGGESTED A PLAN OF NINE POINTS TO EFFECT A TEMPORARY CEASEFIRE AND ESTABLISH A COURT TO JUDGE THE AGGRESSOR. REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE UNSG HAS PASSED THEIR SUGGESTION TO OFFICIALS OF BOTY COUNTRIES (IRAN AND IRAQ). WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF THIS AND WHAT IS THE POSITION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN?

1A. WE HAVE RECEIVED SUCH A THING. ITS CONTENT IS SIMILAR TO WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN REPORTED. IT HAS BEEN AGREED TO ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE TO DETERMINE THE AGGRESSOR AND THAT IT SHOULD START ITS WORK. IT WAS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT A CEASEFIRE SHOULD TAKE PLACE, BUT THE TIMING OF THESE TWO THINGS HAS NOT BEEN FIXED. WE BELIEVE THAT A CEASEFIRE WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER THE AGGRESSOR IS NAMED AND, IN THIS CONNECTION, THERE ARE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, THE UNSG, AND OTHERS. WE DO NOT WANT TO USE DELAYING TACTICS AND PROLONG THE DISCUSSIONS AS SOME PARTIES EXPECT AND BELIEVE.

FROM THE BEGINNING, WE HAVE SAID OUR LAST WORD. WE BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE ONLY TWO WAYS TO END THE WAR:

(1) TO NAME THE AGGRESSOR; (2) TO DEFEAT THE AGGRESSOR, WHICH WILL END THE WAR AUTOMATICALLY.

THE FIRST WILL END THE WAR BY POLITICAL METHODS; THE SECOND WILL END IT BY MILITARY MEANS. IF THE UNSC DOES ITS DUTY AND ACCEPTS ITS RESPONSIBILITIES, THE FIRST (POLITICAL METHOD) WILL PREVAIL AND COULD BE IMPLEMENTED. END TEXT.

NEWTON